

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANAA

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FOLL REPEAT USIA 3700 ACTION CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT 21 FEB 74
QUOTE

UNCLAS USIA 3700

E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

1. MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE AND USIA PURSUING PLANS TO PROGRAM VISIT TO AREA BY EMINENT AMERICAN ACADEMICIAN WITH TWO OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS REPRESENTING DIVERSE DISCIPLINES IN ARAB STUDIES. CENTRAL PURPOSE WILL BE TO CONVEY TO ARAB WORLD RAPIDLY INCREASING INTEREST AMONG ELEMENTS US SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY ACADEMICIANS, IN CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL POSITION OF ARAB STATES AND THEIR IMPACT ON EVOLVING AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. AS ALWAYS, HEIGHTENED FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS EMPIRICALLY CALL FOR INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF AN AREA, ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE. IN TURN, THESE PHENOMENA HAVE SPARKED AN ENLIVENED INTEREST IN ARABIC AREA STUDIES, WHICH IN LONG RUN, BROODS WELL FOR INCREASED UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INTELLECTUAL INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE. URGENCY ATTACHES TO NEED FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ARAB WORLD AND US TO UNDERSTAND DYNAMICS OF EMERGING POLICIES

OF EACH VIS-A-VIS OTHERS. MEI CURRENTLY RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS, PREPARING PROGRAM CONCEPTS, AND COLLECTING PERTINENT SUPPORT MATERIALS.

2. MEI NOW PLANS TO INITIATE PROGRAM ON/ABOUT MAY 1, 1974. TOTAL PROGRAM DURATION ESTIMATED 30 DAYS. ACADEMIC GROUP WILL VISIT APPROXIMATELY FOUR COUNTRIES OF ARAB EAST TO ENGAGE IN FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION WITH SELECTED GENERAL ACADEMIC AUDIENCES WELL AS ARAB STUDIES CENTERS. MEI-SPONSORED GROUP REQUESTS POSTS SUGGEST SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES AND MINIMUM/MAXIMUM DAYS TEAM MIGHT PROFITABLY STAY IN YOUR COUNTRIES. FINAL SCHEDULE, WHICH WILL BE DETERMINED SOON, COULD INCLUDE OTHER THAN ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES.

3. MEI PLANS SUPPORT MATERIALS MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 1 WILL INCLUDE FILMS, SLIDES, OTHER GRAPHICS AND PUBLISHED MATERIALS SUCH AS BIBLIOGRAPHIES, MONOGRAPHS, STUDIES AND BOOKS ON M.E. BY U.S. SCHOLARS. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCH MATERIALS FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS WILL BE WELCOMED BY MEI PLANNERS. AGENCY/MEI REQUEST ADDRESSEE POSTS 1) CONFIRM INTEREST IN FACILITATING PROGRAMMING ARAB STUDIES GROUP; AND 2) ADVISE WHETHER CONSIDER PROPOSED TIME FRAME SATISFACTORY. UNQUOTE
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